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REPORT

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NOTES RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AGRICULTURE

IMPROVEMENTS IN GRAIN ELEVATOR -- Dziennik Polski, No 327, 28 Nov 49

Adjacent to the railroad station in Jedrzejow is a large brick grain elevator belonging to FZZ (Stute Granaries). A credit of over 13 million zlotys has been assigned for the building, in 1950, of grain-drying facilities and a narrow-gauge railroad siding leading to the elevator.

Started by the Germans during the occupation, the elevator passed into the hands of the Spolem Cooperative. It is one of the five largest elevators in Kielce Wojewodztwo. With a capacity of 3,400 tons, it accommodates a flow of 150 tons per day, in the mechanical loading of grain and grain products from narrow-gauge to wide-gauge reilroads and vice versa. Adjacent to the elevator is a special wide-gauge railroad siding to facilitate operation.

The elevator already has a fully mechanized cleaning plant.

Calusinski, manager of the elevator, saved 2 million zlotys in 1949 by designing a ramp connecting the elevator and the narrow-gauge railroad.

PZUW AIDS FARMERS -- Wola Ludu, No 19, 16 Dec 49

The General Institute of Mutual Insurance (PZUW) paid out a total of 2,242,467,000 zlotys as indemnity for fire losses on insured farm buildings and chattels in the period from January to October 1949. This was 97 percent of the awarded indemnities.

In addition to the above, the PZUW pays considerable amounts to small farmers who incur losses other than from fire.

For damages from floods or hurricanes, and to aid farmers to rebuild farms devastated through German occupation, PZUW's annual assistance to individual poorer farmers is equivalent to capital which would yield upward of 70 quintals of rye per year. From January to 31 October 1949, 250 million zlotys were spent for this purpose; 200 million zlotys were spent in the corresponding period in 1948.

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PEASANTS BENEFIT THROUGH LAND REFORM -- Polska Zbrojna, No 331, 2 Dec 49

As a result of land reform, the number of medium-size farmsteads has increased to nearly 650,000, while farmsteads with less than 3 hectares of land number 125,000. Before the war, usable land averaged 0.7 hectare per farm resident; today the average is 1.5 hectares.

Prewar debts of peasants were canceled, to a large extent, by repayment in the ratio of one current zloty for one prewar zloty. This did not benefit peasants who became wealthy during the war. The progressive scale of land taxes also places the heaviest burden on wealthy farmers.

VETERINARIES TO BE RELOCATED -- Wola Ludu, No 18, 15 Dec 49

A law passed recently provides for the relocation of veterinaries from cities to localities which now lack veterinary service. The Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Reform will grant allowances up to 50,000 zlotys to cover moving expenses.

RURAL CO-OP'S MEMBERSHIP INCREASES -- Wola Ludu, No 18, 15 Dec 49

From 30 June 1948 to 31 October 1949, the membership of the Samopomoc Chlopska rural cooperative increased from 1,392,664 to 2,050,000, or 47 percent. Women members number 207,357, an increase of 106 percent over 30 June 1948.

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